

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 7 is acknowledged with appreciation. By this amendment, claims 3 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form and, as such, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 3 and are believed allowable therewith. A new dependent claim 8, corresponding to original claim 4, has been added depending from allowable claim 7 and is believed allowable therewith.

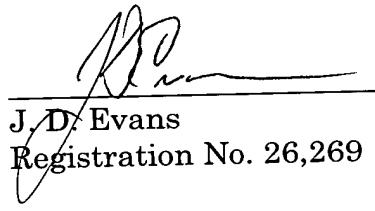
Favorable action on the application is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 037149.52655US).

Respectfully submitted,

December 29, 2004


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